Application No. 09/975,938
Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2006
 and the Advisory Action December 15, 2006

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are currently pending. Claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 1, 3, 5, and 9 have been amended by the present amendment. The amendments to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement regarding the limitation "wherein fields in the data structure are different depending on the message type designation"; and Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,430,711 to Sekizawa (hereinafter "the '711 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,785,015 to Smith et al. (hereinafter "the '015 patent").

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview granted Applicants' representative on January 10, 2007, at which time the outstanding rejection of the claims was discussed. In particular, the parsing step recited in Claim 1 was discussed with respect to the teachings of the cited '015 patent. However, no agreement was reached pending further consideration of the claims upon a further response to the outstanding Office Action.

Regarding the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Applicants note that this rejection was addressed in the Request for Reconsideration filed November 6, 2006. Moreover, Applicants note that the Advisory Action dated December 15, 2006 indicated that this rejection has been overcome. Accordingly, this rejection will not be further addressed herein.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a method of receiving, at a monitoring device over a network, information concerning a remotely monitored device, the information being

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contained in a message that also includes a message type designation, the method comprising:

(1) first parsing, <u>by the monitoring device</u>, a first line from the message to extract the

message type designation; (2) determining a data structure type based on the message type

designation; (3) <u>creating a data object of the determined data structure type in a memory</u>

<u>accessible by the monitoring device</u>, wherein fields in the created data object are different

depending on the message type designation; (4) second parsing a line from the message

subsequent to the first line to extract a data type and a data value; (5) storing the extracted

data value in the data object of the determined data structure type at a location in the memory

corresponding to the extracted data type; and (6) <u>repeating the second parsing step and the</u>

<u>storing step for all lines in the message subsequent to the first line, which contains the</u>

<u>message type designation</u>. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed

specification and do not add new matter.[1]

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action

asserts that the '711 patent discloses everything in Claim 1 with the exception of the parsing

steps, and relies on the '015 patent to remedy those deficiencies.

The '711 patent is directed to a system and method for monitoring the state of a

plurality of network printers connected via network. As shown in Figure 1, the '711 patent

discloses that an agent gets status information indicating the state of each network printer

connected in a local area network from a network printer, and overwrites a status log data file

with the obtained information. Further, the '711 patent discloses that each agent converts the

status information into an electronic mail and transmits the email to a mail server. As shown

in Figure 1, the '711 patent discloses that a console unit may access the mail server and read

the email related to the status of the network printer. However, Applicants respectfully

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[1] See, e.g., paragraphs [0118] and [0119], and Figure 15A in the specification.

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submit that the '711 patent fails to disclose first parsing, by a monitoring device, a first line from the message to extract a message type designation; determining the data structure type based on the message type designation; creating a data object of the determined data structure type in a memory accessible by the monitoring device, wherein the fields in the created data object are different depending on the message type designation; and second parsing a line from the message subsequent to the first line to extract a data type and a data value, as recited in amended Claim 1. Further, it follows that the '711 patent must fail to disclose storing the extracted data value in the data object of the determined data structure type, and the repeating step recited in amended Claim 1. Rather, the '711 patent merely refers to extraction means for extracting status information from an electronic mail message received by the electronic mail reception means.[2]

The '015 patent is directed to a system and method for monitoring a computer system process or peripheral. In particular, the '015 patent discloses a peripheral that comprises a network interface, a print engine, and a processor that controls the print engine in response to data received as an email via an interface, and sends an email response via the interface. In particular, as shown in Figure 4, the '015 patent discloses that a list processor 232 includes several processes, including parse-mail 414, direct-data-reporting-and-reconfiguration 424, assemble-report 426, and create-body 430. As described in column 13, the '015 patent discloses that the parse-mail process 414 monitors the contents of the mailbox bearing the address of the peripheral to determine from the body of the message whether to pass the message to the revised-access-control process 416, the revised-subscriber-list process 420, or the direct-date-reporting-and-reconfiguration process 424.

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[2] See '711 patent, column 7, lines 5-7.

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However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '015 patent fails to disclose <u>first</u>

<u>parsing, by a monitoring device, a first line from the message to extract the message type</u>

<u>designation,</u> as recited in Claim 1. Rather, Applicants note that the list processor 232 is

operating on the <u>printer</u> 108 and is processing email <u>instructions</u> sent to the printer. The

parse-mail process 414 is unrelated to receiving information concerning a remotely

monitored device <u>at a monitoring device over a network,</u> as recited in amended Claim 1.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the parse-mail process 414 disclosed by the

'015 patent does not <u>determine a data structure based on the message type designation, create</u>

<u>a data object of the determined data structure type in a memory accessible by the monitoring</u>

<u>device, wherein fields in the created data object are different depending on the message type</u>

<u>designation,</u> and <u>second parsing a line from the message subsequent to the first line to extract</u>

<u>a data type and a data value,</u> as recited in Claim 1. Rather, the parse-mail 414 process parses

a received message looking for <u>commands</u> to be executed by the printer. Nowhere does the

'015 patent state that the first line in a received message is of any importance. Moreover, the

'015 patent is silent regarding creating a data object, wherein fields in the created data object

are different depending on the message type designation, the message type designation being

the first line of the message, as required by Claim 1.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the '015 patent fails to disclose the step

of <u>repeating the second parsing step and the storing step for all lines in the message</u>

<u>subsequent to the first line, which contains the message type designation,</u> as recited in Claim

1. Rather, the '015 patent discloses that the parse-mail process 414 may decide, on a line-by-

line basis, whether to pass a line to one of the processes 416, 420, or 424 until all lines of the

attachment have been parsed.[3] Thus, the '015 patent does not disclose that a second parsing

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[3] See '015 patent, column 13, lines 48-52.

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step is repeated to extract a data type and a data value, and to store the extracted data value in

a data object of a determined data structure type (based on the message type designation) for

all lines in the message, as recited in Claim 1. Rather, the '015 patent discloses that various

lines are sent to multiple processes based on their contents.

Accordingly, no matter how the teachings of the '711 and '015 patents are combined,

the combination does not teach or suggest the steps of first parsing, by a monitoring device, a

first line from the message to extract the message type designation; determining a data

structure type based on the message type designation; creating a data object of the determined

data structure type in a memory accessible by the monitoring device, fields in the created data

object are different depending on the message type designation; and second parsing a line

from the message subsequent to the first line to extract a data type and a data value; and

repeating the second parsing step and the storing step for all lines in the message subsequent

to the first line, which contains the message type designation, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 (and all similar

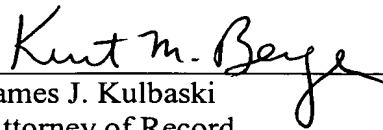rejected dependent claims) is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Independent Claims 3, 5, and 9 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited

in Claim 1. Moreover, Claims 3, 5, and 9 have been amended in a manner analogous to the

amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for

the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 3, 5,

and 9 (and all associated dependent claims) are rendered moot by the present amendment to

the independent claims.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 3, 5, and 9 (and all

associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '711 and

'015 patents.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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